

CLAIMS

1. A system for detecting an obstruction in a power window, said system comprising:
 - a) a window having a line of movement and a leading edge;
 - b) an illuminating device that emits light from the leading edge of said window;
 - c) a sensor proximately positioned and arranged to detect the light and to detect the interruption of said light when an obstruction is between the leading edge of said window and the sensor, said sensor having a sensor output; and
 - d) a circuit having an indicator output signal, said circuit configured to receive said output from said sensor and configured to transmit said indicator output, said indicator output indicating an obstruction.
2. A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said illuminating device includes at least one light emitting diode situated adjacent to a trailing edge of said window such that said window serves as a waveguide directing the light.
3. A system as claimed in claim 2 wherein said at least one light emitting diode is a plurality of light emitting diodes such that the leading edge is illuminated, and further comprising a plurality of sensors situated to detect the leading edge of said window.
4. A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said illuminating device includes a fiber optic cable having light emissions and arranged to follow the entire length of the leading

edge of said window, and wherein said sensor includes an array of optical sensors proximately located to detect said light emissions.

5. A system comprising:

- a) a moving optical waveguide having a leading edge and a trailing edge;
- b) at least one light source positioned and arranged to transmit a light beam through said trailing edge of said waveguide directing the light beam such that the light beam travels through said waveguide and is emitted from the leading edge;
- c) at least one optical sensor adjacent said leading edge to detect the light beam emitted from the leading edge and having an output indicating the detection of said light beam;
- d) a logical unit designed to control said moving optical waveguide in response to receipt of the output of the optical sensor.

6. A system for detecting obstruction as in claim 5 wherein said moving optical waveguide includes a motor wherein said logical unit includes an output capable of changing the state of said motor.

7. A method of detecting an obstruction comprising:

- a) producing a detectable light source on a leading edge of a moving structure;

b) detecting said light source with receivers proximately situated so as to view the detectable light source on the leading edge of the window;

c) controlling the movement of the window in accordance with the signal detected.

8. A system for sensing an obstruction, comprising:

- a) an opening capable of closure in which an obstruction may be present;
- b) a structure capable of signal propagation configured to close said opening and having a leading edge and a trailing edge;
- c) a device positioned to transmit a signal into the trailing edge of said structure such that the signal propagates through said structure and is emitted from said leading edge of said structure; and
- d) a receiver capable of sensing the signal emitted from said leading edge of said structure such that the signal indicates the presence of an obstruction, said receiver positioned opposite said leading edge of said structure.